

Fiscal Services

Budget Message

FY 2001/02 and 2002/03

Over the past year, **the Fiscal Services Department** has undertaken numerous tasks, all of which are dedicated to the mission of providing sound financial management in order to provide county services with the highest degree of financial integrity and accountability.

The newest section of this department, **Grants Management**, has accomplished an impressive start-up record. Since inception of this program, just 16 months ago, we have submitted applications for 14 grants and have been selected to receive funding totaling approximately \$9.3M. We have networked with other grant organizations including the University of Central Florida to create technology transfer and partnership collaborations. These network opportunities heighten our funding possibilities and allow the County to become a visible community partner with educational institutions, state and federal governmental agencies, and community based service organizations. We are also calculating an indirect cost rate which, once approved by the U.S. Department of Management and Budget, will allow us to recover overhead costs of grants development and management.

This year marks our initial effort to develop a two year budget cycle. With the assistance and cooperation of County management, County departments, and Constitutional Officers, the **Budget Division** has coordinated the process of budget development for both expenditures and revenues over Fiscal Years 2001/02 and 2002/03. Our goals for this change in practice are three-fold:

- Improve long-range and strategic planning by considering program and budget needs over a longer horizon.
- Link operating and capital spending through detailed budgets over a minimum of two years.
- Reduce staff time dedicated to budget development in the second year of the budget cycle and redeploy staff to other critical functions and activities.

The Budget Division conducted twelve training sessions in order to adequately inform

employees about the budget process in general. The County received the Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budget Presentation award for the 8th consecutive year.

The **Purchasing Division** continues to grow as a procurement operation that awards over \$100 million annually in support of Seminole County's services and needs. We have had success in and will continue to refine our source selection procedures for complex projects, seek new sources of supply that bring competition and best value to the procurement process, increase cost avoidance in a competitive environment, and partner with industry to foster business relationships that are mutually beneficial. Additionally, we are in the process of making the appropriate changes to the Purchasing Manual to reflect current laws, statutes, and procurement policies. And we are working towards developing a procurement operation that supports e-commerce in a streamline, efficient and effective manner.

MSBU is excited about coordinating a pilot project in a County subdivision for the reconstruction of their neighborhood wall. Procedures to assist neighborhoods in the construction of walls has long been requested by the Board. Numerous legal and logistical issues have restrained the development of an MSBU wall procedure. Working with the County Attorney's Office and the Public Works department, MSBU presented a process to the Board, and our first project is now proceeding. Neighborhood streetlights continue to be an enhancement desired by many subdivisions. We undertook our first streetlight construction MSBUs in order to assist property owners with the up front costs by financing them over a five year period. We are anticipating the development of a contractual agreement between the County and the power companies to assist in developing street lighting MSBUs.

Fiscal Services remains committed to both our internal and external customers and looks forward to developing new processes which will easily facilitate our services.